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SOURCE

Magyar Kozlony.HUNGARIAN LAW ON LAND CONSOLIDATION

The Ministry of Agriculture, implementing Decree No 3 of 1949 of the Council of Ministers on the partial consolidation of agricultural and forest lands, has issued Decree No 8 of 3 February 1952, which contains the provisions listed below.

Requests for Consolidations

Requests for partial consolidation may be submitted by (a) heads of producers' cooperatives, and (b) heads of state farms, experiment stations, agricultural schools, or other agricultural enterprises.

Consolidation of lands of producers' cooperatives may be requested if at least 300 cadastral yokes of the cooperative's lands are scattered over several locations and the area of each tract does not exceed 50 cadastral yokes.

Consolidation of lands of state farms may be requested if the state farms are already in operation in a town, at least 300 cadastral yokes of the farm are scattered at several locations, and the area of each tract does not exceed 50 cadastral yokes.

Consolidation may also be requested by a producers' cooperative or a state farm if the area of land to be consolidated is less than 300 cadastral yokes but consolidation is justified in the interests of production.

Partial consolidation may not be requested in towns where partial consolidation was effected during 1951 or twice since 1949. This regulation is not applicable to towns with extensive farming areas.

Preparation for Execution of Consolidation

The Minister of Agriculture grants partial consolidation in 356 towns for the winter of 1952. Requests are considered individually, and the minister,

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through the president of the town executive committee, notifies the applicant of his decision. Consolidation may not be initiated and carried out without the minister's permission. Persons who consolidate lands without permission are liable to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years. It is forbidden to consolidate vineyards and orchards.

Partial consolidation is carried out by the local consolidation committees under the supervision of the county executive committee. Members of the consolidation committee are:

1. President of the local producers' cooperative or head of the local state farm.
2. Representative of the local executive committee.
3. Delegate of the local farmers' association.

Persons who are barred from membership in producers' cooperatives may not be members of a consolidation committee.

It is the responsibility of the National Geodetic Institute to carry out the technical task of consolidation through its specialists, who survey the land to be consolidated or exchanged. These specialists are under the supervision of the head of the local county geodetic service.

Consolidation committees are to be formed on 7 February 1952. The first task of the committee is registration of all land to be consolidated.

In consolidation for producers' cooperatives, all land held by the members are to be registered. In consolidation for state farms, all land used by them and state-owned reserve lands must be registered.

Farmyards, as well as vineyards, orchards, and community forests and pastures, are exempt from consolidation.

Total instead of partial consolidation is mandatory in towns where at least 70 percent of the lands are held by producers' cooperatives, all local producers' cooperatives and the local state farm request consolidation of the entire farming area, and the Minister of Agriculture approves the consolidation request for the entire farming area.

In general, the consolidated tracts should be formed with due consideration for economic operation and with the least disturbance possible to independent peasant holdings in areas where most of the land is held by producers' cooperatives and state farms. Land of farmers not requesting consolidation should be consolidated only in case of necessity. Depending on local conditions, scattered land of producers' cooperatives and state farms should be consolidated in tracts of 100 and 200 cadastral yokes, respectively.

Land owned by persons who do not apply for consolidation shall be exchanged for land outside the consolidated tract. To eliminate interfering with orderly farm operations, care should be taken to avoid repeated exchange of land owned by professional farmers which were received in exchange during consolidation actions since 1949.

The exchange of farm land shall be governed by the following regulations:

Land owned by professional farmers who do not apply for consolidation will be expropriated first, beginning with the land of best quality and proceeding gradually toward poorer quality land. The peasants affected by the exchange

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action shall be compensated by the allotment of other available land of equal value at their choice. Next land which falls within the consolidated tract and is owned by artisans, miners, and factory workers will be expropriated. Exchange of farm land for this class of owners will be carried out, in general, on the same basis as in the case of professional farmers.

Kulaks will receive, in exchange for their expropriated farms, land of equal value wherever possible.

The committee responsible for the consolidation shall submit its plan by 18 February 1952.

Real estate of members of producers' cooperatives applying for consolidation may be exchanged for state reserve lands located in neighboring towns or for real estate held by members of producers' cooperatives in neighboring towns or for real estate of kulaks if the kulaks' holdings are located within the land to be consolidated.

Members of producers' cooperatives may retain their buildings even if the holdings are located within the consolidated lands.

Owners whose land is to be exchanged shall be notified by the consolidation committee, and, not later than 3 days after receipt of the notification, they may submit to the committee their comment on the pending exchange of land.

#### Execution of Consolidation and Legal Remedy

Consolidation and redistribution of land shall be completed by the consolidation committees by 22 February 1952. Appeals against the consolidation decisions are admitted only in the public interest.

The following organizations and persons may appeal the consolidation resolutions to the county executive committees:

1. Association of county cooperatives
2. President of the local producers' cooperative.
3. Head of the state farm.

Final decision is rendered by the Minister of Agriculture.

In compensation cases, final disposition is made by the president of the county executive committee.

#### Miscellaneous Regulations

Farmers must complete seasonal agricultural work, regardless of impending consolidation of their land.

Persons who consolidate without the permission of the Minister of Agriculture or who survey lands contrary to the law or hinder the work of the consolidation authorities or deface or remove consolidation markers are liable to imprisonment not to exceed 3 years.

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